



TOWN OF KENSINGTON

OCTOBER 2001
JOURNAL

October 29th Town Meeting Agenda

7:30 p.m.

Mayor's appointments for confirmation
Eliminate parking on part of one side of Frederick Avenue
Discussion of December 3rd Holiday Event

Meeting Schedule

November 5, 7:00 p.m. Worksession
November 26, 7:30 p.m. Town Meeting
December 3, 7:00 p.m. Worksession
December 17, 7:30 p.m. Town Meeting

TOWN PARKS SURVEY FORM

All interested citizens are invited to perform a survey of one or more Town parks using the enclosed double-sided survey form. This form was designed to elicit citizen information and opinions about the Town parks to insure that the Town is meeting our park needs. We will use this information to make any needed repairs or maintenance, evaluate our maintenance plans, and continue to upgrade our park amenities. This form was designed so that a park can be evaluated and the form completed in 5 –15 minutes. Please take the time to let us know how you feel about our Town parks.

Contact us at 3710 Mitchell Street, Kensington, MD 20895
Phone: 301-949-2424 Fax: 301-949-4925; E-mail: mayor.council@tok.org; Website: www.tok.org

Mark Your Calendars

November 22, 23: Town Office will be closed for Thanksgiving.
No Trash Pickup on Friday, November 23.

Leafing

New equipment has been ordered and is scheduled to arrive November 1.

Announcements

Thanks so much to *Andie Murtha* and *Lisa Sherper* for their generosity with their time and talents as they organized Kensington's First Annual Arts and Crafts Fair. This new addition to the Kensington Labor Day Festival was a huge success!

Thanks also to *Donna Kenney* for the wonderful job she did this year on the Paint the Town Art Show. The Art Show was particularly well attended this year!

Congratulations to *Dr. Jason Geng* of *Genex Technologies, Inc.* which received the 2001 Tibbetts Award.

Over the next year, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) will be performing sewer rehabilitation work on several streets. The streets affected are as follows: 3806, 3908 Baltimore St., 10314, 10319 Fawcett St., and 3500 Kensington Ct. All work will be done internally without any excavation. This work is being done to repair poor spots in the sewer pipe and to stop ground water from infiltrating the sanitary sewer system.

Are you interested in the Arts and Humanities?

The Town is developing ideas to expand and coordinate the various musical, artistic and entertainment events which center around the Town Hall Community Center. Anyone who would like to meet with a preliminary steering group to develop the ideas for this effort, please call the Mayor at (301) 949-2424 or Wat Stewart (301) 933-8283.

Seminar for Emergencies

The county's Office of Emergency Management, Fire and Rescue Services has scheduled a half-day seminar to help residents prepare for emergencies on October 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Stella B. Werner Council Office Building. To register call 240-777-2300.

Tree City USA

Fall tree planting and tree care are underway in the Town. Another planting will take place in the spring. As you know, Kensington is a designated "Tree City USA". The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service. This program began in 1976 and is designed to provide an incentive for municipalities to do a better job of planting and caring for trees. To receive this designation, a community must have a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, an

Arbor Day observance, and a comprehensive community forestry program. The Foundation defines an effective community forestry program as “an ongoing process of renewal and improvement – a program of tree planting and care that continues through the years”.

Building Permits

Replace pre-existing driveway apron at 3922 Washington Street
Addition for 4011 Prospect Street
Signs at 3704 Perry Avenue

Mayor's Report

Howard Avenue

September will bring new benches, trash receptacles and our Town clock to Phase II of Howard Avenue. We have received questions about the water fountain! The operation of the water fountain is now in the hands of WSSC. We are still waiting for them to turn the water on.

Metropolitan Avenue

No Update

Meetings and Events Attended by the Mayor

- The Mayor attended a Commercial Development Review Committee meeting this month – discussion of survey done for the Town and how to implement. Many findings of the Market Analysis Strategy prepared in 1993 have been implemented.
- The Mayor and Chris Bruch met with Jim Latham and the Airtight Window Company to discuss armory window repair. They also opened the closed bids for the bathroom renovation proposed for the drill hall.
- She met with Montgomery County to discuss the kiosk on Howard Ave. We expect it to be completed and installed by the first of the year.
- The Mayor met with Susan Engels. She had several interviews with Ms. Engels and has hired her. Ms Engels will start her new position as Clerk Treasurer/Town Administrator on September 4th. Ms Engels will be working Monday – Thursday and will be working during Town meetings and worksessions.
- The Mayor attended the Maryland Association of Counties Convention in Ocean City representing the Maryland Municipal League. She found this convention to be informative and gave her another chance to network with State and County officials.
- The Mayor attended a function in North Beach, Maryland on behalf of the Town. This was their Beach Fest Parade and two day festival. She attended on Saturday and enjoyed the parade and events of the day.

- The Mayor has been overseeing the park improvements and the curb/gutter and sidewalk repairs over the past two months in the absence of our Director of Public Works. The Mayor commends Jamie Simms our Supervisor of the crew who has been filling in for Mark Joel since June. Our crew now down to only four on most days is still able to complete all jobs in a timely manner.

Council Member Cowan's Report

- Working with residents who are interested in various traffic calming solutions – assessing the new traffic patterns that may result from redirection of traffic during certain hours at specific intersections.
- Reviewing proposed personnel manual – comparing proposed policies against those of other similar jurisdictions.
- Working with volunteers to determine the need for a Town emergency preparedness plan.
- Engaging in continuing conversations about the Town tree lighting celebration.
- Attended ribbon cutting ceremony for opening of new offices for a non-profit charitable organization.
- Had a great time at the Labor Day parade!

Council Member Scharman's Report

Prepared and submitted a grant application, including three Town projects, to the State of Maryland's new Community Parks and Playgrounds Program.

Submitted supplemental information to complete two Town grant applications under Maryland's Open Space Program and prepared and submitted Phase II application addendums. Submitted reimbursement requests for Phase I work performed under this program.

Reviewed and prepared comments and questions concerning the Town's draft employee handbook, personnel policy, and employee benefit package.

Council Member Scharman met with and provided information to the Old Town Business District Association regarding economic development assistance and programs sponsored by the State of Maryland. She acquired this information and State contacts through the seminars attended at the Maryland Municipal League Convention in June.

Tree Board Meeting

August 23, 2001

Present: Barbara Scharman, Anne Elsbree, Sabooh Hikim and Louise Hamilton

Introductions by members were made to the new chairperson, Council Member Scharman. Each member gave a brief summary of their background and interests relevant to tree management.

There was a discussion on preferred street trees (both wired and non-wired sides of streets), the permit requirements from the State, tree maintenance, re-planting, and mechanisms for handling citizen requests. The budget for trees and landscaping was discussed.

Forester Hikim will bring a film to the next meeting on the importance of trees. The next quarterly meeting will be scheduled for November, 2001.

Town Meeting

August 27, 2001

Mayor Raufaste called the Meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. with Council Members Bruch, Cowan, Pfautz, Scharman and Code Enforcement Officer Hamilton present. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a Moment of Silence for Mr. and Mrs. Pachner's son, Dava Pachner who passed away a week ago.

The Bus Shelter Program Presentation was given by Mr. James Bovard, General Manager of Culver Amherst. Culver Amherst specializes in street furniture amenities. Its core product is bus shelters. It is a company that adopts bus stop sites whether they have existing shelters, benches and retrofits the site with state of the art new shelters with regular and frequent maintenance at no cost to the municipality or government in exchange for the rights to advertise at these locations. Culver Amherst's current Maryland street furniture properties locations are Laurel, Takoma Park, Brentwood, Mt. Rainier, Glenarden, Landover Hills, Seat Pleasant and Gaithersburg. The possible shelter locations for the Town of Kensington are on state highways at existing stops.

The Mayor signed a Proclamation for the Yellow Ribbon Suicide Program Awareness Week beginning September 16 – September 22, 2001.

Montgomery County legislation on massage parlor will take affect as a health ordinance in October. The Council have been advised by the Town's attorney to withdraw our own ordinance and adopt the County's ordinance. Because it will be a health ordinance, it will effect the entire county. The Mayor stated that the Town of Kensington would be redundant in having our own ordinance. If done now, the County will step in and look at our existing massage parlor. If, in fact, it is not allowed by County standards, the County will close the establishment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Council Actions

Council Member Pfautz moved to approve minutes of June 18, 2001 Town Meeting. Council Member Bruch seconded and was passed unanimously.

Council Member Bruch moved to approve minutes of July 30th Work Session. It was seconded and passed unanimously with the Mayor in concurrence.

Council moved to approve minutes of July 30th Town Meeting as printed.

The Mayor requested approval of David Furman and Caya Cagri as the new members of Commercial Development Review Committee. Council Member Pfautz motioned to approve. It was seconded by Council Member Bruch, and passed unanimously.

Council Member Cowan moved to revoke the Town of Kensington's ordinance on massage parlors as emergency legislation and adopt Montgomery County's massage law. It was seconded by Council Member Pfautz and passed unanimously with the Mayor in concurrence.

Work Session of Mayor & Council

August 27, 2001

The work session commenced at 9:04 p.m. Mayor Raufaste, Council Members Bruch, Cowan, Pfautz and Scharman and Code Enforcement Officer Louise Hamilton were present and the following issues were addressed:

The Project List was reviewed and updated.

The review of proposed ordinance for rights-of-way use permit fee was put on hold until October 1st work session.

The monthly correspondence was reviewed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Work Session of Mayor & Council

September 4, 2001

The work session commenced at 7:05 p.m. Mayor Raufaste, Council Members Bruch, Cowan, Pfautz and Scharman and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present and the following issues were addressed:

Bus Shelter concerns regarding County involvement and control were addressed. The Council moved to request a proposal for one bus shelter from Culver Amherst.

The Project List was reviewed and updated.

The monthly correspondence was reviewed.

The Mayor addressed concerned citizens regarding the HOC gymnasium. We were assured by Steve Silverman that the Town government and the citizens will be consulted before decisions are made concerning the facility.

There being no further business, the worksession was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Work Session of Mayor & Council

October 1, 2001

The work session commenced at 7:00 p.m., Council Members Bruch, Cowan, Pfautz and Scharman, Code Enforcement Officer Hamilton, and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present and the following issues were addressed:

The Council discussed the annual tree lighting ceremony with the Holiday Tree Committee. The Council concurred the tree lighting is a secular event and that it should be held the same as in prior years with some variations on the theme and music.

The Town Attorney, Suellen Furguson, discussed the draft ordinance and resolution she prepared for regulating and compensating the Town for the right of way used by telecommunication providers. The proposed draft has a per linear foot charge and an application fee. The Council proposed some additions to the draft to include required notice and removal of abandoned wires and unused equipment. Council Member Scharman asked if safety specifications for active cables and equipment currently in use would be covered under the ordinance. She also asked about the Town's responsibilities and capabilities in monitoring proposed provisions of the draft ordinance. Two other local jurisdictions have adopted similar ordinances, however there has been a significant amount of legislation in this area. Ms. Furguson requested time to review the outcome of Anne Arundel County's ordinance before advising on the final ordinance.

The project list was reviewed and updated. Council Member Bruch added the following items to the project list for follow-up: Armory lot cleanup, Street repairs, Driveway improvement program, Connecticut Avenue pedestrian light, and Connecticut/Knowles light. Council Member Pfautz added: restriping of the pedestrian walkway on Metropolitan at St. Paul Street and enclosing or moving dumpsters along Metropolitan.

Council Member Bruch visited 65 properties with the Town contractor for the driveway improvement program. Proposals will be sent to property owners within the next week. Council Member Bruch suggested the Town should pay for the sidewalk portion of the driveway apron which is consistent with County policy.

The code enforcement action list was reviewed. The Council discussed options available for assessing tax bills or liens on property for work completed by the Town because of noncompliance with code ordinances.

Council Member Bruch informed the other Council Members that the Middle East Forum would be held at the Town Hall on October 5th. The Forum is being sponsored by some Town residents. Police coverage of the meeting has been requested.

The Council denied a request from the NIH fish market to use the Town Hall parking lot due to concerns about increased traffic on residential streets.

The Council Members concurred that the proposal received for replacing the bus shelter on Connecticut Avenue in front of Safeway requires further revision, including a termination for convenience clause. Council Member Bruch will forward the suggested revisions to the Mayor.

Long term care insurance information packets were presented to the Council for their consideration. The Council suggested holding off until the overall employee benefit package has been reviewed.

The December meeting schedule was set for a worksession on December 3rd and a Town Meeting on December 17th.

Minutes from August 27th and September 4th meetings were reviewed and corrected.

The monthly correspondence was reviewed.

A concerned citizen's letter regarding bus route accommodations for the elderly and handicapped at 10225 Kensington Parkway will be forwarded to Vista Management for their comments.

Council Member Bruch proposed that emergency agencies such as the Red Cross and the County's Office of Emergency Preparedness should be reminded that we have a large down county armory facility that is available for their use in a regional emergency.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

<p>The Town of Kensington expresses its deepest condolences to the family and friends of Dava Pachner, a resident of the Town.</p>
